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It is to be hoped that the custodians of Mrs. Emma C. Bergdoll will not permit her to go out and seek a pot of gold pending the settlement of sentence in her case of participation in the draft evasion by her two sons, Grover C. and Erwin Bergdoll.

Selection by the Vermont department, G. A. R., of John R. Wilson of Worcester to be department commander for the ensuing year assures the department of a capable head, as Mr. Wilson has proven himself to be a capable administrative officer as secretary of the Washington County Veterans' association for many years. The department ought to experience a year of successful administration even under the handicap of declining numbers.

Fritz Friedrich, second son of the ex-kaiser, having been convicted of illegally exporting capital out of Germany, was not found guilty of a very serious offense; but the action of the government in bringing a Hohenzollern to justice may indicate a state of mind on the part of Germany to try men of lesser degree for alleged crimes in the war. Royalty, at any rate, does not enjoy the immunity it held under the imperial government. The divine right of kings, and the reflected immunity on members of their families, is not a popular doctrine in Germany at the present time.

In these times of somewhat general business depression it is not entirely reassuring to be informed that employment in automobile factories increased 25.2 per cent during April while employment in railroad car building decreased 12.3 per cent, iron and steel 9.7 per cent and coal mining three per cent. In other words, the substantial basic industries devoted in large part to the manufacture of luxuries indicated a marked increase in demand. The come-back of business prosperity and normalcy in the United States depends upon impetus to the basic industries and not to the manufacture of pleasure automobiles. It seems that the resumption of normalcy is not yet at hand.

TWO STRONG FIGURES GONE.

The late Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior under the Wilson administration, had one of those unobtrusive personalities which refrain from pushing to the front regardless of anyone or anything. Lane was a capable man and he preferred to let his works rather than his personality speak for him. Thereby his personality became the stronger albeit it remained in more or less retirement. In many respects Lane was of the same stamp as the late William Murray Crane of Massachusetts, dominating by the force of his mentality rather than by any self-advertising methods; but in respect to the acquirement of worldly goods Lane was the antithesis of Crane, inasmuch as he died practically penniless while Crane left an estate running into the millions. This latter contrast was due in large part to the fact that Lane had devoted himself almost exclusively to public service while Crane had a well-established financial foundation before he ever entered the Senate. Lane was a careful and wise counselor for Wilson during the greater part

of the latter's two terms in the White House, and his counsel generally was on the side of sound reasoning although perhaps along new ideas. Lane was relied on by Wilson as much as Wilson was inclined to rely upon anybody, at least until the latter part of the second administration of Wilson. Thus Lane occupied a position which served to accentuate the declaration made previously that if Lane had been born in the United States rather than on Prince Edward Island he would have been president of the United States. Surely the service which he gave as a member of the interstate commerce commission and as secretary of the interior for seven years stamped him as a man of much capability. Franklin K. Lane was one of the high-class Americans.

Twenty-seven years' service on the United States supreme court bench, with 11 years of that period spent as chief justice, stamped Edward Douglass White as one of the leading jurists of the country's history. Almost a judge by inheritance, his father and his grandfather having been on the bench, White was also fitted by temperament and training to fill a position in the highest branch of the judiciary of the United States. He lived down any prejudice that may have developed in the minds of northern people at the time of his selection, such prejudice having developed from the fact that White served as a soldier in the Confederate army during the War of the Rebellion; and he proved himself capable of interpreting the law in clear-minded, unbiased manner. So there was almost no objection on the score of affiliation with the Rebellion when President Taft, a Republican, saw fit to elevate Justice White to the position of chief justice back in 1911. It is now left to be said that the Taft action was proven as much justified as was the original selection of White for the U. S. bench by President Cleveland when a deadlock arose between the president and the Senate back in 1894. Chief Justice White has been one of the strong men of the United States bench.

EAST BETHEL

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